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PEDESTRIAN AND CYCLING MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION 2010 PROGRESS REPORT

The Planning and Economic Development Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendation contained in the following report dated December 16, 2010 from the Commissioner of Planning and Development Services.

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

1. The Regional Clerk forward a copy of this report to the Clerks of the local municipalities and to Metrolinx.

2. PURPOSE

This report informs Regional Council on the progress in implementing the Pedestrian and Cycling Master Plan (PCMP) in 2010 and provides a proposed work plan for 2011.

3. BACKGROUND

This report is the second annual progress report for implementation of the Pedestrian and Cycling Master Plan

Regional Council endorsed the Pedestrian and Cycling Master Plan (PCMP) in April 2008. The Plan is intended to guide the Region as it works with local and area municipalities over the next 25 years and beyond to implement a comprehensive Region wide pedestrian and cycling network, along with complementary outreach programs and initiatives.

Active transportation is now a key component of the new Regional Official Plan (ROP)

The Region's approach to transportation planning is focused on trip reduction, providing transportation choices, and a shift to more sustainable modes of transportation such as walking, cycling, and public transit. The adopted ROP contains active transportation policies to create a system of facilities and programs that encourage and promote more sustainable communities. A Regional cycling network is also identified in the ROP. This network along with details in the PCMP provides guidance in connecting and integrating cycling facilities between local and surrounding area municipalities.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

2010 PEDESTRIAN AND CYCLING MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

Inter-Municipal Working Group meetings held to coordinate and update information on activities and projects

The Inter-Municipal Working Group includes representatives from all nine local municipalities, York Region Police, York Region Public Health, York Region Transit, York Region Rapid Transit Corporation (RapidCo), Transportation Services – Roads Division, Planning and Development Services – Infrastructure Planning, and the District and Catholic school boards. Three Inter-Municipal Working Group meetings were held in 2010.

The Inter-Municipal Working Group meetings covered various discussions and updates related to:

- Bicycle racks on York Region Transit buses
- Formation of a Technical Advisory Committee for the Lake-to-Lake route project
- Development of a Regional Cycling Map
- Community outreach programs (CAN-BIKE)
- Local municipal initiatives on pedestrian and cycling programs for 2010 and 2011
- York Region Public Health and Regional Police's 2010 cycling initiatives such as Injury Prevention and Cycling Smart programs
- The Region's 2010 roads capital projects and work plan related to active transportation.

Regional Council education session held on May 27, 2010 focused on cycling safety

In December 2009, Regional Council directed *“staff to report back and arrange to have a presentation by safety experts, to a future meeting of the Committee regarding safety issues relating to bicycle paths on Regional roads, including winter conditions”*. As a result, a Regional Council education session was held specifically focused on cycling safety. During the session, two cycling experts, one on facility design and the other on safety, presented the various options of on-road and segregated off-road bicycle facilities and the safety aspects of cycling and answered questions from Regional Councillors. In general, the May 27, 2010 education session received positive feedback from the Regional Councillors and provided a better understanding between staff and Councillors including the message that there is no “one size fits all” solution to accommodating cyclists on Regional roads.

The Region continues to work with local municipalities and to fund Municipal Partnership Program projects

Since its launch in 2007, York Region has approved 11 projects and allocated approximately \$1.8 million to local municipalities for the implementation of cycling facilities through the Pedestrian and Cycling Municipal Partnership Program. As a condition of the Program, this funding has been matched by the local municipality. Projects that have been completed or substantially completed to date include:

- Town of Newmarket – extension of the Tom Taylor Trail south of Mulock Drive, including an underpass at Mulock Drive (completed and opened in 2009)
- Town of Newmarket – extension of the Tom Taylor Trail south from Bosworth Court to the north boundary of the Town of Aurora, (substantial construction has been completed to date)
- Town of Markham – Major Mackenzie Drive multi-use pathways from Woodbine Avenue to Prospector's Drive (completed and opened in 2009)
- Town of Markham - Major Mackenzie Drive multi-use pathways from Prospector's Drive to Highway 48 (completed in 2010)
- Town of East Gwillimbury – pedestrian bridge structure crossing the Holland River between Yonge Street and 2nd Concession and associated trail enhancement from 2nd Concession to the new bridge structure (completed and opened in 2009)
- City of Vaughan – implementing multi-use boulevard pathway on Teston Road between Jane Street and Keele Street (completed and opened in 2010)
- City of Vaughan – Bartley Smith Greenway trail connection in Tudor Valley from Planchett Road to Jacob Keffer Parkway (Completed and opened in 2010)

Detailed information on the proposed 2011 Municipal Partnership Program projects is the subject of another report to this Committee.

First Regional cycling map will be available to residents in Spring 2011

In 2009, York Region received a \$154,000 grant from the Ontario Ministry of Health Promotion's Healthy Communities Fund for cycling related programs over a two year period. A portion of this grant is being used to develop a Regional Cycling Map. The Cycling Map will identify existing Regional and local municipal facilities including bicycle lanes, signed bicycle routes, multi-use trails, and paved road shoulders. During 2010, a Technical Advisory Committee consisting of representatives from all nine local municipalities, Conservation Authorities, and various Departments in the Region

provided input to develop the map. Mapmobility Corp. was retained to assist the Region with this project. The completion date for this project is early 2011.

CAN-BIKE training program in partnership with local municipalities and school boards are being conducted

Regional staff from Planning, Public Health, and York Region Police in coordination with local municipalities and the school boards are carrying out the CAN-BIKE training program.

CAN-BIKE is a nationally-recognized series of courses on all aspects of cycling safety. It is oriented toward both recreational and utilitarian cycling. The CAN-BIKE cycling safety program provides standardized courses that teach children about cycling safety and skills such as the rules of the road, the proper way to wear helmet, keeping your bike in good and safe working condition, and how to use the road safely and comfortably.

A portion of the grant from the Ontario Ministry of Health Promotion's Healthy Communities Fund is also being used to deliver CAN-BIKE workshops for elementary school children and high school aged youth.

Using the CAN-BIKE course as the base, York Region's cycling safety program has two components:

1. Recruit and train high school students to become Junior CAN-BIKE instructors and, over time, encourage junior instructors to become fully-certified instructors. Interested students receive instructor training at no cost. In exchange, they provide 40 hours of training delivered by York Region and local municipalities.
2. Provide safe cycling training to children in elementary schools in Markham, Vaughan, Richmond Hill and Newmarket in partnership with the York Region Public and Catholic School Boards. Future workshops will be rolled out to all nine local municipalities as funding permits.

In 2010, the following recruitment and activities were held as part of the CAN-BIKE program:

- 22 youth completed the Junior Instructor training program
- 40 children participated in the day-long Kids BikeFest through the York Region Police Community Safety Village
- 210 children participated in day-long events at 2 elementary schools in Markham

The program will continue in 2011 to educate and promote cycling safety in the Region. The program will include a day-long BikeFest at the York Region Police Community Safety Village, open to all children in the Region ages 7-13. The Safety Village offers an

ideal environment for children to familiarize themselves with the rules and experience of on-road cycling.

Continued advocacy and awareness of pedestrian and cycling in conjunction with other agencies and stakeholders

Staff have participated and presented at the Complete Streets Forum held in the City of Toronto on June 30, 2010. The Complete Streets Forum attracted about 200 participants including transportation professionals and politicians to discuss road designs that advance pedestrian and cycling facility needs and safety in the GTA.

Staff continue to coordinate and participate in discussions with local municipalities, adjacent area municipalities, and other agencies to ensure seamless integration and consistency between York Region and other agencies in term of cycling facilities and designs.

Staff from Planning and Transportation Services Departments are working together to incorporate cycling facilities on Regional roads

Staff from the Planning and Transportation Services Departments collaborate on an on-going basis to incorporate cycling facilities into capital projects, including road widenings, reconstruction and resurfacing projects.

Table 1 summarizes the construction of partial paved road shoulders and shared lanes that have been completed or are under construction on Regional roads in 2010.

Table 1
Summary of 2010 Completed Cycling Facilities in York Region

Project Name	From	To	Completion Date/Year	Type of Facility	Length of Facility
Davis Drive	Huron Heights Drive	Harry Walker Parkway	Completed Summer 2010	Shared lane (Sharrows)	1.5 km
Highway 27	Nashville Road	Highway 9	60% Complete by December 2010	Paved Shoulder	21 km
Jane Street	Rutherford Road	Langstaff Road	Completed Fall 2010	Shared lane (Sharrows)	2 km
TOTAL LENGTH OF ON-ROAD BIKE FACILITIES					24.5 km

Bike racks on buses implemented to provide greater options for active transportation

Beginning in May 2010, bike racks were installed on York Region Transit buses, with 90% of the fleet now completed and the remaining to be installed in 2011. The implementation program included a marketing campaign to inform customers about this new option. Utilization of the bike racks increased over the Summer and early Fall. Staff will be conducting a review in 2011 to determine utilization rates. The bike racks on buses initiative helps cyclists travel longer distances, links the cycling network to public transit and opens up more points of destination to cyclists.

Lake-to-Lake route discussions held with local municipalities and the City of Toronto staff

The Lake-to-Lake route is a proposed cycling route in the Pedestrian and Cycling Master Plan that stretches from Lake Simcoe to Lake Ontario. In May 2010, a Technical Advisory Committee consisting of staff from the nine local municipalities, Conservation Authorities, and various Departments in York Region was established to help define the scope and potential of this project.

Staff level discussions continue as part of the Technical Advisory Committee and City of Toronto staff have also been engaged to gain cooperation and information on opportunities to link York Region's cycling network with Toronto's network.

PROPOSED 2011 WORK PLAN

The objective of the proposed 2011 work plan is to complete all of the projects and initiatives outlined in the 2010 work plan. These include completing the safe cycling programs and continuing to coordinate the implementation of cycling infrastructure in the Region.

Completion of the safe cycling program component of the Ministry of Health and Promotion's Healthy Communities Fund project requirements

York Region has committed to the following objectives in receiving the funding:

- Train 60 high school students as Junior Instructors,
- Deliver training to 2000 elementary school students,
- Documentation and reporting of the results to the Ministry of Health and Promotions.

Staff will work to complete these objectives in 2011.

York Region cycling website will be available to the public in 2011

Staff have initiated the development of a Regional cycling component of the corporate website. With the first Regional cycling map, local municipal cycling information, and information on outreach programs, staff are in the process of developing a more comprehensive work program for the Regional cycling website. A consultant will be engaged to assist staff to complete this task.

It is anticipated that this comprehensive website will have enhanced graphics, content, and interactive cycling maps. The website will also include information from York Regional Police, Public Health, and Transportation Services (YRT). As such, this is an on-going collaboration with various York Region Departments throughout 2011. Staff from Planning and Corporate Communications will collaborate on the public awareness and launch of the cycling component of the Regional website. This comprehensive Regional cycling website will be completed in 2011.

Establish a framework to implement the Lake-to-Lake cycling route project

Staff will develop a comprehensive framework for the implementation of the Lake-to-Lake cycling route project. It is anticipated that a consulting firm will be retained to assist the Region in the implementation of this project.

Staff level discussions with the City of Toronto will continue, and potential opportunities to integrate and enhance cycling facilities at the gateways between York Region and the City of Toronto will be identified.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All proposed activities are included in the proposed Planning and Development Services 2011 budget.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

All of the cycling initiatives highlighted in this report benefit all residents of York Region. The Inter-Municipal Working Group and Municipal Partnership Program are key initiatives to assist in the implementation of local pedestrian and cycling projects.

7. CONCLUSION

York Region is actively taking steps to move more people by sustainable travel modes such as public transit, carpooling, on foot and by bicycle. The recent investments in pedestrian and cycling infrastructure and partnerships with local municipalities have

resulted in the construction of on-street bicycle lanes, paved shoulders, cycling routes, and multi-use trails. The implementation of the 2010 work plan included several cycling safety programs and initiatives such as the CAN-BIKE training and the first Regional Cycling Map, both of which have been partially funded through a grant from the Province.

The proposed 2011 Work Plan will also continue the coordination of community outreach programs/initiatives and cycling facility implementation with Transportation Services Department, York Region Rapid Transit Corp., York Regional Police, Public Health, local municipalities, and other agencies. Projects such as the CAN-BIKE training program, Regional Cycling Map, Regional Cycling Website, Lake-to-Lake Route, and other projects identified in the Pedestrian and Cycling Master Plan will be the focus of the 2011 work plan.

For more information on this report, please contact Richard Hui, Manager, Transportation Planning at Ext. 1578.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.